United Nations ST/IC/2017/31

Secretariat

11 October 2017

Information circular*

To: Members of the staff

From: The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Resources Management

Subject: **Internal Justice Council**

1. The purpose of the present circular is to inform staff of the terms of reference and membership of the Internal Justice Council.

Terms of reference of the Internal Justice Council

2. In paragraph 36 of its resolution 62/228 of 22 December 2007, the General Assembly decided to establish the Internal Justice Council as part of a new internal justice system in order to help ensure independence, professionalism and accountability in the administration of justice system of the United Nations. The system, which was established as at 1 July 2009, comprises a two-tier judicial structure consisting of a first instance tribunal, the United Nations Dispute Tribunal, and an appellate instance tribunal, the United Nations Appeals Tribunal. Pursuant to paragraph 37 of resolution 62/228, paragraph 57 of resolution 63/253 and paragraph 45 of resolution 66/237, the tasks of the Internal Justice Council are to:

(a) Engage in liaison with the Office of Human Resources Management on issues relating to the search for suitable candidates for the positions of judges, including by conducting interviews, as necessary;

(b) Provide its views and recommendations to the General Assembly on two or three candidates for each vacancy on the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal, with due regard to geographical distribution; in that regard, no more than one candidate should be recommended from any one Member State for a judgeship on the Dispute Tribunal, and no more than one candidate from any one Member State for a judgeship on the Appeals Tribunal;

(c) Draft a code of conduct for the judges for consideration by the General Assembly;[1]

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* The present circular supersedes ST/IC/2013/16 of 17 May 2013 and will be in effect until further notice.

[1] Having considered the reports of the Internal Justice Council containing the draft text of a code of conduct (A/65/86 and A/66/158), the General Assembly approved the code of conduct for the judges of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal in its resolution 66/106.

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(d) Provide its views on the implementation of the system of administration of justice to the General Assembly;

(e) Include the views of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and the United Nations Appeals Tribunal in its annual reports;

(f) Perform other duties, as requested by the General Assembly on an ad hoc basis.[2]

Composition of the Internal Justice Council

3. As set forth in paragraph 36 of its resolution 62/228, the General Assembly decided that the Internal Justice Council would consist of a staff representative, a management representative and two distinguished external jurists, one nominated by the staff and one by management. The Assembly also decided that the fifth member would be a distinguished jurist chosen by consensus by the four other members, who would chair the Council.

4. The Secretary-General appointed the new representatives and the distinguished external jurists nominated by the staff and management, respectively, for a four-year term commencing on 13 November 2016. By consensus, the members of the Internal Justice Council chose the Chair, who was thereupon appointed by the Secretary-General. The members of the Council are:

Carmen Artigas, distinguished external jurist nominated by staff (Uruguay)
Frank Eppert, management representative (United States of America)
Samuel Estreicher, distinguished external jurist nominated by management (United States of America)
Jamshid Gaziyev, staff representative (Uzbekistan)
Yvonne Mokgoro, Chair (South Africa)

The term of office of the members of the Internal Justice Council expires on 12 November 2020.

[2] See, for example, resolutions 71/266, para. 45, 70/112, para. 42, 69/203, para. 47, 68/254, para. 39, 67/241, paras. 42 and 57, and 66/237, para. 45.